IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AM) CASE NO.	
	Plaintiff,)) JUDGE
v.) .
\$42,102.00 IN U.S. CURR ON DECEMBER 11, 2017 TO THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANT,	, PURSUANT))))
	Defendant.)

COMPLAINT IN FORFEITURE

NOW COMES plaintiff, the United States of America, by Justin E. Herdman, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, and James L. Morford, Assistant U.S. Attorney, and files this Complaint in Forfeiture, respectfully alleging as follows in accordance with Supplemental Rule G(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

JURISDICTION AND INTRODUCTION

1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over an action commenced by the United States under 28 U.S.C. Section 1345, and over an action for forfeiture under 28 U.S.C. Section 1355(a). This Court also has jurisdiction over this particular action under 18 U.S.C. Section 981(a)(1)(C).

- 2. This Court has *in rem* jurisdiction over the defendant currency pursuant to: (i) 28 U.S.C. Section 1355(b)(1)(A) because acts giving rise to the forfeiture occurred in this district; and, (ii) 28 U.S.C. Section 1355(b)(1)(B), incorporating 28 U.S.C. Section 1395, because the action accrued in this district.
- 3. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to: (i) 28 U.S.C. Section 1355(b)(1)(A) because acts giving rise to the forfeiture occurred in this district; and, (ii) 28 U.S.C. Section 1395 because the action accrued in this district.
- 4. This Court will have control over the defendant currency through service of an arrest warrant *in rem*, which the United States Marshals Service will execute upon the defendant currency. *See*, Supplemental Rule G(3)(b) and G(3)(c).
- 5. On December 11, 2017, agents of the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (USPS OIG) assisted by Postal Inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) seized the defendant \$42,102.00 in U.S. Currency (hereinafter, the defendant currency) at the East 59th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, residence of Jennifer Riccardi, a postal service employee. The seizure was made pursuant to the execution of a federal search warrant.
 - 6. The defendant currency is now in the custody of the federal government.
- 7. The USPIS commenced an administrative forfeiture proceeding against the defendant currency. A claim to the defendant currency was submitted in the administrative forfeiture proceeding by Jennifer Riccardi, thereby requiring the filing of this judicial forfeiture action.
- 8. The defendant currency is subject to forfeiture to the United States under 18 U.S.C. Section 981(a)(1)(C) in that it constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to a violation(s) of 18 U.S.C. Section 1708 (mail theft).

FORFEITURE

- 9. Jennifer Riccardi was a postal service employee, who worked at the Cleveland Processing and Distribution Center, located at 2400 Orange Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 10. On December 7, 2017, at approximately 4:50 p.m., a USPS OIG Special Agent observed Riccardi remove U.S. mail from her assigned work area placing the items in her personal bag and go on her lunch break. Riccardi was observed leaving her work area at approximately 5:00 p.m. and head directly to the employee entrance/exit, where she used her USPS employee badge to exit the building.
- 11. On December 11, 2017, beginning at approximately 2:00 p.m., USPS OIG agents again conducted surveillance of Riccardi. OIG agents observed Riccardi remove mail particularly, two large bundles of processed letter mail from her assigned work machine and place it into a soft-sided cooler/lunch bag. OIG agents also observed Riccardi place an additional bundle of processed letter mail into a soft-sided shoulder bag.
- 12. At approximately 5:00 p.m., OIG agents observed Riccardi leave her work area and exit the building through the employee entrance/exit located on Broadway Avenue. Riccardi departed the parking lot in her personal vehicle. She returned at approximately 5:29 p.m.
- 13. OIG agents approached Riccardi as she was exiting her vehicle and identified themselves to her. The agents advised Riccardi that they wanted to speak with her inside the building.
- 14. At the outset of the interview, the OIG agents identified themselves and read an advisement of rights form to Riccardi. She stated that she understood her rights, initialed and signed the form, and agreed to speak to the agents. Among other things, the following transpired during the interview:

- a.) Riccardi stated that she has been a postal service employee for the past two years, beginning in October or November of 2015, and that she has always been assigned to the Cleveland Processing and Distribution Center as a postal support employee/clerk.
- b.) Riccardi stated her lunch break is always at 5:00 p.m.
- c.) Riccardi stated her primary duty is working on the machines that get raw incoming collection mail from the loading docks. The mail then flows through her machine, which cancels the stamps and sorts the mail. The machines break down the processed mail into 12 separate "bins", which include Cleveland, Akron, Toledo, Cincinnati, Columbus, Pennsylvania, and "orange mail" (i.e., bills).
- d.) Riccardi was told that OIG agents witnessed her take mail she processed that evening and place it inside her cooler/lunch bag.
- e.) Further, Riccardi was shown a video clip taken that evening that showed her placing a thick stack of mail inside her cooler/lunch bag.
- f.) Riccardi was asked to explain what was going on. She stated that she began stealing mail around Thanksgiving of 2017. She knew people (customers) send cash and gift cards through the mail.
- g.) Riccardi was asked what she did with the mail she stole that day. She stated that she took it home during her lunch break. Riccardi said she put the stolen mail in her cooler/lunch bag and her shoulder bag prior to leaving the building for her lunch break. She further stated that she stole all greeting cards, looking for cash and gift cards.
- h.) Riccardi stated that she has stolen, at the most, 20-25 pieces of mail in any given shift, because that is all she could fit inside her bag.
- i.) Riccardi was asked how many pieces she stole on Thursday, December 7, 2017. She stated that she stole approximately 20 greeting cards.
- j.) Riccardi stated that if she finds checks, she throws them out.
- k.) Riccardi stated that she usually puts the stolen mail pieces in a plastic bag when she is done going through it, then throws it away at a gas station, usually the BP gas station by her house.
- 1.) Riccardi stated that the house she currently lives in is her boyfriend's house. Her boyfriend's mother owns the house, but she [the mother] does not live there.

- m.) Riccardi stated that she snorts heroin, but not when she went home that evening during her lunch break.
- n.) Riccardi stated that there are a couple grams of heroin in a plastic baggie in the living room and a gun on top of the refrigerator.
- o.) Riccardi was asked if she had any gift cards on her that she had stolen from the mail. Riccardi removed her wallet and produced three Visa gift cards and one Marathon gift card. Riccardi stated that she stole them from the mail the prior week.
- p.) Riccardi stated that she has stolen Target gift cards, but has not used them. She said she would sell the Target gift cards to people on the streets and that a lot of people will give you 50 cents on the dollar for the cards.
- q.) Riccardi then admitted that she probably began stealing in August of 2017, and not Thanksgiving of 2017.
- r.) Riccardi said sometimes she burns (previously stolen mail), and sometimes she just throws it away.
- 15. During the interview, Riccardi was asked if she would consent to a search of her vehicle. Riccardi consented to the search and signed a Consent to Search form for the vehicle, which was parked in the employee lot.
- 16. A search of Riccardi's vehicle was conducted and Macy gift card backers, Subway gift cards, and miscellaneous receipts were recovered.
- 17. Receipts from Subway showed gift card redemptions made on August 23, 2017 and December 1, 2017.
- 18. Another receipt found inside Riccardi's vehicle was from the store The Gift Card Loop. The receipt was dated December 23, 2016, and showed the sale of numerous gift cards to the store for a cash payout.
- 19. At approximately 11:53 p.m. on December 11, 2017, OIG agents and USPIS Postal Inspectors executed a federal search warrant at Riccardi's East 59th Street, Cleveland,

Ohio, residence. Among other things, the following items were seized from the following locations:

A. Kitchen:

(i) Bersa BP9CC 9mm semi-automatic handgun, serial number D57968, loaded with one magazine.

B. Family Room:

- (i) 80 pieces of first class U.S. mail (sealed).
- (ii) 28 pieces of first class U.S. mail (opened/rifled).
- (iii) 2 \$180.00 U.S. Postal Service money orders.
- (iv) 352 gift cards (various retailers/restaurants).
- (v) 2 gift certificates.
- (vi) \$8,967.00 in U.S. Currency.
- (vii) various types and amounts of drug paraphernalia (syringes, razor blades, straws, bottle caps with drug residue).

C. Office:

(i) 1,147 gift cards (various retailers/restaurants).

D. Kitchen Storage:

- (i) \$33,135.00 in U.S. Currency.
- (ii) 3 miscellaneous gift cards.
- (iii) money counter (in box) with receipt.

E. Second Level Loft:

- (i) 4 spoons with residue.
- (ii) 2 personal checks in other persons' names.
- (iii) mortar and pestle with residue.

20. The defendant \$42,102.00 in this case is the total of the \$8,967.00 U.S. Currency seized from the family room of the residence [paragraph 19(B)(vi)] and the \$33,135.00 U.S. Currency seized from the kitchen storage area [paragraph 19(D)(i)].

CONCLUSION

21. By reason of the foregoing, the defendant \$42,102.00 in U.S. Currency is subject to forfeiture to the United States under 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) in that it constitutes – or is derived from – proceeds traceable to a violation(s) of 18 U.S.C. § 1708 (mail theft).

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, the United States of America, requests that this Court enter judgment condemning the defendant currency and forfeiting it to the United States, and providing that the defendant currency be delivered into the custody of the United States for disposition according to law, and for such other relief as this Court may deem proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin E. Herdman U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio

By:

James L. Morford (Onio: 0005657)
Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio
Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House
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VERIFICATION

STATE OF OHIO)	
)	SS
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA)	

I, James L. Morford, under penalty of perjury, depose and say that I am an Assistant
United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, and the attorney for the plaintiff in the
within entitled action. The foregoing Complaint in Forfeiture is based upon information
officially provided to me and, to my knowledge and belief, is true and correct.

James L. Morford (Ohio: 0005637) Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 15th day of May, 2018.

Notary Public

DANIEL R. RANKE, Attorney At Law Notary Public - State of Ohio My commission has no expiration date. Section 147.03 O. R. C. Case: 1:18-cv-01197 Doc #: 1-1 Filed: 05/24/18 1 of 2. PageID #: 9

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet.

(SEF INSTRICTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				\$42,102.00 in U.S. Currency seized on December 11, 2017, pursuant to the execution of a federal search warrant. County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A	Address, and Telephone Number	r)		Attorneys (If Known)					
James L. Morford, Assist 801 West Superior Avenue									
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPA	L PARTIES			
✓ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	U.S. Government				FF DEF	Incorporated or Pr		PTF	DEF
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	en of Another State	2 🛭 2	Incorporated and of Business In		5	5
				en or Subject of a reign Country	3 🗖 3	Foreign Nation		□ 6	O 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT			F	DREETLIRE/PENALTY		here for: Nature			
CONTRACT 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERT 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITION: Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	74	LABOR Other LABOR O Fair Labor Standards Act O Labor/Management Relations I Railway Labor Act Family and Medical Leave Act Other Labor Litigation Employee Retirement Income Security Act MMIGRATION Note Indication Application Actions Note Interpretation Application Actions	422 Appr 423 With 28 U 28 U 29 U 20 Copy 830 Pater 835 Pater 840 Trad 861 HIA 862 Black 863 DIW 864 SSIL 865 RS1 870 Taxe 870 Taxe 871 IRS-26 U 26 U 871 IRS-26 U 8	RTY RIGHTS rights nt nt - Abbreviated Drug Application emark .SECURITY (1395ff) k Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g))	480 Consum 490 Cables 490 Cables 580 Security Exchan 890 Other S 891 Agricul 893 Environ 895 Freedom Act 896 Arbitral 899 Admini Act/Rev	laims Act m (31 USC))) eapportion st und Bankin rece tion Organiza ner Credit at TV ess/Comme tion tion stratutory A tural Acts mental Ma n of Inform strative Pr Teiver Pr Decision utionality	nment ng nced and nodities/ Actions atters mation rocedure ppeal of
	Cite the U.S. Civil State Brief description of cacivil forfeiture activil forfeiture activity CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	Appellate Court itute under which you are iuse: ion under 18 U.S.C. IS A CLASS ACTION	Reop	(specify) Do not cite jurisdictional stat	er District tutes unless di C	Multidist Litigation Transfer iversity): CHECK YES only URY DEMAND	if demanded in	Multidi Litigati Direct F	int:
DATE 05/24/2018 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	, ,	SIGNATURE OF ATTO	ORNEY (DE RECORD					

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

I.	Civil Categories: (Please check one category only).
	1. ✓ General Civil
	Administrative Review/Social Security
	Habeas Corpus Death Penalty
	*If under Title 28, §2255, name the SENTENCING JUDGE:
	CASE NUMBER:
II.	RELATED OR REFILED CASES. See LR 3.1 which provides in pertinent part: "If an action is filed or removed to this Court and assigned to a District Judge after which it is discontinued, dismissed or remanded to a State court, and subsequently refiled, it shall be assigned to the same Judge who received the initial case assignment without regardfor the place of holding court in which the case was refiled. Counsel or a party without counsel shall be responsible for bringing such cases to the attention of the Court by responding to the questions included on the Civil Cover Sheet."
	This action is RELATED to another PENDING civil case. This action is REFILED pursuant to LR 3.1.
If app	licable, please indicate on page 1 in section VIII, the name of the Judge and case number.
III.	In accordance with Local Civil Rule 3.8, actions involving counties in the Eastern Division shall be filed at any of the divisional offices therein. Actions involving counties in the Western Division shall be filed at the Toledo office. For the purpose of determining the proper division, and for statistical reasons, the following information is requested.
	ANSWER ONE PARAGRAPH ONLY. ANSWER PARAGRAPHS 1 THRU 3 IN ORDER. UPON FINDING WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES TO YOUR CASE, ANSWER IT AND STOP.
	(1) Resident defendant. If the defendant resides in a county within this district, please set forth the name of such county COUNTY: Cuyahoga County
	Corporation For the purpose of answering the above, a corporation is deemed to be a resident of that county in which it has its principal place of business in that district.
	(2) Non-Resident defendant. If no defendant is a resident of a county in this district, please set forth the county wherein the cause of action arose or the event complained of occurred. COUNTY:
	(3) Other Cases. If no defendant is a resident of this district, or if the defendant is a corporation not having a principle place of business within the district, and the cause of action arose or the event complained of occurred outside this district, please set forth the county of the plaintiff's residence. COUNTY:
	COUNTY:
IV.	The Counties in the Northern District of Ohio are divided into divisions as shown below. After the county is determined in Section III, please check the appropriate division.
	EASTERN DIVISION
	AKRON (Counties: Carroll, Holmes, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne) CLEVELAND (Counties: Ashland, Ashtabula, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake,
	Lorain, Medina and Richland) YOUNGSTOWN (Counties: Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull)
	WESTERN DIVISION
	TOLEDO (Counties: Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca VanWert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) CASE NO.
Plaintiff,)
) JUDGE
v.)
\$42,102.00 IN U.S. CURRENCY SEIZED)
ON DECEMBER 11, 2017, PURSUANT)
TO THE EXECUTION OF A FEDERAL)
SEARCH WARRANT,)
Defendant.)) PRAECIPE

The United States of America respectfully requests that the Clerk of this Court issue the attached Warrant of Arrest *in Rem* to the United States Marshals Service (USMS) pursuant to Rule G(3)(b)(i) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin E. Herdman U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio

By:

James L. Morford (Ohio: 0005657)
Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio
Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House
801 West Superior Avenue, Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
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James.Morford@usdoj.gov

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United States District Court

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

THE UNITED STATES MARSHAL AND/OR ANY OTHER DULY AUTHORIZED LAW

WARRANT OF ARREST IN REM

ENF	ORCEMENT OFFICER:		
WHE	EREAS, on <u>May 24, 2018</u> aa	Complaint in Forfei	ture
was filed in t States, agains	his Court by Justin E. Herdman, United State st:	s Attorney for this District, o	on behalf of the United
	2,102.00 in U.S. Currency seized on Decemb rrant	er 11, 2017, pursuant to the e	execution of a federal search
(C	ATS Asset ID No.: 18-UPS-000679)		
and V States; and,	WHEREAS, the defendant currency is current	ly in the possession, custody	, or control of the United
WHI Forfeiture Addefendant cu	EREAS, Rule G(3)(b)(i) of the Supplemental ctions directs the Clerk of the Court to issue a rrency; and,	Rules for Admiralty or Mari Warrant of Arrest <i>In Rem</i> for	time Claims and Asset or the arrest of the
WHI Forfeiture Acauthorized to	EREAS, Rule $G(3)(c)$ of the Supplemental Retions provides that the Warrant of Arrest In execute it;	ules for Admiralty or Mariti Rem must be delivered to a p	me Claims and Asset erson or organization
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YOU	JARE FURTHER COMMANDED to file the	e same in this Court with you	ir return thereon.
WITNESS THE I	HONORABLE	UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE	EAT
DATE	CLERK		
May 24, 2018			
	(BY) DEPUTY CLERK		
	Returnable -60-	days after issue.	
	UNITED STATES MA	RSHALS SERVICE	
DISTRICT		DATE RECEIVED	DATE EXECUTED
U.S. MARSHAL			

U.S. Department of Justice United States Marshals Service

PROCESS RECEIPT AND RETURN

See "Instructions for Service of Process by U.S. Marshal"

PLAINTIFF United States	of America					'	COURT CASE NUMI	3EK	
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							Warrant of Arrest in Rem		
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- PRINT 5 COPIES: 1. CLERK OF THE COURT
 - 2. USMS RECORD
 - 3. NOTICE OF SERVICE
 - 4. BILLING STATEMENT*: To be returned to the U.S. Marshal with payment, if any amount is owed. Please remit promptly payable to U.S. Marshal.
 - 5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

PRIOR EDITIONS MAY BE USED

Form USM-285 Rev. 12/15/80 Automated 01/00

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) CASE NO.
Plaintiff,)) JUDGE
)
v.)
)
\$42,102.00 IN U.S. CURRENCY SEIZED)
ON DECEMBER 11, 2017, PURSUANT)
TO THE EXECUTION OF A FEDERAL)
SEARCH WARRANT,)
)
Defendant.) NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

To: Jennifer Riccardi 4103 East 59th Street Cleveland, Ohio 44105

The above-captioned forfeiture action was filed in U.S. District Court on May 24, 2018.

A copy of the Complaint in Forfeiture is attached. If you (Jennifer Riccardi) claim an interest in the defendant currency, the following applies.

Pursuant to Rule G of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, you are required to file with the Court, and serve upon James L. Morford, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is United States Attorney's Office, 400 United States Court House, 801 West Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, a verified claim to the defendant currency within 35 days after your receipt of the complaint. The claim shall contain the information required by Rule G(5) of the said Supplemental Rules. Additionally, you must

file and serve an answer to the complaint, or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, within 20 days after the filing of the claim, exclusive of the date of filing. If you fail to do so, judgment will be taken for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Respectfully,

Justin E. Herdman U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio

By:

James L. Morford (Ohio: 0005657)
Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio
Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House
801 West Superior Avenue, Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216.622.3743 / Fax: 216.522.7499

James.Morford@usdoj.gov

Date: May 24, 2018